



INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: June 7, 2013
SUBJECT: Indiana Charter Board Applauds House Enrolled Act 1338, Which Strengthens Charter School Law
CONTACT: Sarah Sullivan, Manager, smsullivan@icsb.in.gov

On Tuesday, June 4, 2013, representatives from the Indiana Charter School Board (“ICSB”) joined Indiana Governor Mike Pence and House Representative Robert Behning at the State House during a ceremonial signing of House Enrolled Act (“HEA”) 1338. HEA 1338, which was authored by Representative Behning and sponsored by Indiana Senator Dennis Kruse, strengthens Indiana’s charter school statute by increasing accountability and transparency for both charter school authorizers and charter school operators. The ICSB partnered with the Indianapolis Mayor’s Office of Education Innovation, Ball State University’s Office of Charter Schools, and the Indiana Public Charter Schools Association in support of HEA 1338. The bill was coauthored by Indiana House Representatives Jim Lucas, Todd Huston, and Dale DeVon.

“With the passage of HEA 1338, Indiana lawmakers demonstrated their commitment to rigorous charter school authorizing practices, and the creation of higher-performing public charter school options for Indiana students,” said Claire Fiddian-Green, Executive Director of the ICSB. “We are grateful to Governor Pence, Representative Behning, Senator Kruse, Representative Lucas, Representative Huston, and Representative DeVon for their leadership and support of a quality charter schools sector.”

Under the new law, every Indiana authorizer is required to adopt nationally recognized quality charter school authorizing standards, to develop charter revocation and non-renewal processes, and to come before the State Board of Education prior to granting a charter to an organizer that has had its charter revoked or non-renewed by a different authorizer. Other components of the bill support improved information sharing and transparency regarding academic and financial performance of Indiana’s charter schools.

“Governor Michael Pence further demonstrated the State of Indiana’s drive to provide great educational options to children by signing into law reforms that will help to dramatically advance the oversight of public charter schools,” said Greg Richmond, president and CEO of NACSA. “By requiring the state’s authorizers to adopt nationally-accepted best practices, sanctioning those that don’t fulfill their end of the charter promise, and strengthening automatic closure for schools failing to adequately serve their students, Indiana has made it clear it is serious about getting charter schools right.”

About the ICSB

Established in 2011 by the Indiana General Assembly, the ICSB seeks to grow the supply of high-performing public charter schools throughout the state, so that families have multiple options from which to select when deciding what schools best meet the needs of their children. Our focus is upon expanding quality options, so that students who enroll in charter schools receive a rigorous education that prepares them for college and careers. Each school authorized by the ICSB is subject to a transparent and outcomes-oriented accountability system. To learn more about upcoming board meetings, application cycles, and charter schools authorized by the ICSB, visit the ICSB website at www.in.gov/icsb.